

Maximizing the Use and
Exposure of Archival
Authority Data
—SALALM 62—

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Archives, “authority,”
and notability

- What's worth archiving and preserving?
- How do we define “notability”?
- How does the metadata we create reflect our professional values?

“I’m skeptical about archives in the United States. Even more specifically, I’m skeptical about archives in the United States that adhere to the standard tradition of archives in the Western world. I’ve spent hours and hours of my time this year and last reading, thinking, tweeting, and writing about the origins of my skepticism, while also reconciling what it means that I am so very much a part of the problem that I see in this work and trying to advocate for the abolition of the archaic, anti-black, transphobic, elitist and misogynistic aspects of archival administration.”

—Jarrett M. Drake

Metadata standards

- Encoded Archival Description (EAD) for finding aids
- Encoded Archival Context—Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) for creator records

- EAC-CPF is an (XML) encoding schema...
 - Designed to encode standardized information about:
 - People and organizations associated with archival collections
 - The social context and networks of those people and organizations
 - Explicit encoding of relationships makes EAC-CPF “linked data ready.”



Erin Leach

@erinaleach

 Seguir

Dear catalogers: Language is not neutral. Cataloging is not a neutral act.

10:46 - 13 Apr 2016



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Social Networks & Archival Context (SNAC)

*“A vast Global reliable social-document
network connecting the past to the
present to the future!”*

credit: Daniel V. Pitti, IATH, University of Virginia

- Pilot phase underway: 2015-2017
 - Cooperative host: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
 - Technology infrastructure host: Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia

Identity constellations

Dashboard

Getting Started

Welcome, Mairelys, this is your dashboard. This column shows the most recently published Constellations across SNAC. The second column shows Constellations you have checked out for editing and those you are currently editing in other browser windows. It also provides a button to create a new Constellation object. The last column gives quick access to searching and other functionality depending on your permission level.

View Recently Published

Browse interesting and recently published Constellations from all of SNAC

McLane, Louis, 1786-1857

Dalling and Bulwer, Henry Lytton

Create New Constellation

Use the button below to create a new constellation

[+ Create New Constellation](#)

In Progress Edits

Continue where you left off on one of the following Constellations.

Locked Edits

You have the following Constellations open in a browser for editing. You may unlock them by clicking below, however your changes not previously saved may

[Advanced Search](#)

Why a cooperative?

- Economy of sharing descriptive work: cooperatively curate the data
- Link the people descriptions to one another and to record descriptions: build the social-document network
- An international, Internet-based “linked archival authority system”

SNAC Prototype

Remixing Archival Metadata Project (RAMP)

- Open source, browser-based tool
- Developed at the University of Miami Libraries in 2013-2016

The RAMP (Remixing Archival Metadata Project) editor is a web-based tool that allows users to:

- (1) generate enhanced authority records
- (2) publish the content of those records as Wikipedia pages

Remixing Archival Metadata Project

Select or search for a record



 All Items

Can't find a record? [Import it now!](#)



- Click on a process to continue -

How Does RAMP Work?

The RAMP editor extracts biographical and historical data from [EAD](#) Finding Aids to create new authority records for persons, corporate bodies, and families associated with archival and special collections. Users can enhance those records with additional data from sources like [VIAF](#) and [WorldCat Identities](#) and RAMP will transform them into wiki markup suitable for publication to the English Wikipedia. New content can then be edited and added to an existing Wikipedia page or be used to start a new one from within the RAMP editor.

- Derives and enhances EAC-CPF records
- Extracts relevant data from EAD (Encoded Archival Description) finding aid files

- Pulls in data from WorldCat Identities and VIAF (Virtual International Authority File)
- Transforms EAC-CPF records into Wiki Markup for publication to the English Wikipedia

Pilot project with the UM Cuban
Heritage Collection (2014)



Left to right (clockwise):

- Herberto Dumé and Eloisa Castellanos
(UM Digital Collections)
- 138 East 27th St theatre
(WikiMedia Commons)
- Portfolio, "Teresa María Rojas"
(UM Digital Collections)

Wikipedia and notability

How does Wikipedia
define notability?

If a topic has received significant coverage in reliable sources that are independent of the subject, it is presumed to be suitable for a stand-alone article or list (Wikipedia's "General notability guideline").

Questioning notability:
when definitions clash

Teatro Avante

Edit-a-thons and activism

Art & Feminism

Notability and visibility

Google Knowledge Graph

Luis Santeiro

Television screenwriter

Luis Santeiro is a Cuban American television screenwriter and playwright born in Havana, Cuba in 1948. [Wikipedia](#)



Born: October 9, 1947 (age 66), [Havana, Cuba](#)

Books: [Our lady of the tortilla](#), [The Lady from Havana: A Play in Two Acts](#), [A Royal Affair](#)

Movies: [Elmo The Musical](#)

Awards: [Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing In A Children's Series](#), [More](#)

Nominations: [Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Original Song](#), [More](#)

People also search for

[View 5+ more](#)



[Lou Berger](#)



[Tony Geiss](#)



[Joey Mazzarino](#)



[Judy Freudberg](#)



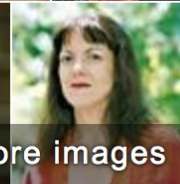
[Norman Stiles](#)

Yolanda Arenas

Yolanda Sabbatini is a Cuban actress who trained in dance and theater in Havana, Cuba. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: [Cuba](#)

People also search for: [Héctor Santiago](#), [Manuel Pereiras García](#), [More](#)



[More images](#)

Caridad Svich

Playwright

Caridad Svich is an award-winning playwright, songwriter/lyricist, translator, and editor who was born in the United States of Cuban-Argentine-Spanish-Croatian parents. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: July 30, 1963 (age 51), [Philadelphia, PA](#)

Awards: [Obie Award for Lifetime Achievement](#)

People also search for

[View 15+ more](#)



[María Irene Fornés](#)



[Erik Ehn](#)



[Saviana Stănescu](#)



[Winter Miller](#)



[Mac Wellman](#)

Conclusion

- Questions of notability and visibility are questions of value.
- Remixing our metadata draws attention to our own gaps and biases.

Wikipedia network of RAMP pages

Thank you!